

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd

Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Decision Notice

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD - URGENCY ACTION, FRIDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 2021

Please see below approval of decision as follows:

1. **Aberavon Seafront Changing Place and Access Enhancements
(Pages 3 - 12)**

To seek approval to delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept an offer of funding amounting to £120,000 from the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics Scheme to deliver an accessible changing place, public toilet enhancements and access improvements at the Aberavon Seafront Aqua Splash

That having given due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. The purpose of the project be noted with delivery by March 2022.
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept the Brilliant Basics grant offer letter.

For Immediate Implementation

Yours sincerely

p.p Chief Executive

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Urgency Action Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration Simon Brennan

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Sandfields West

Aberavon Seafront Changing Place and Access Enhancements

Purpose of the Report

To seek Members' approval to delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept an offer of funding amounting to £120,000 from the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics Scheme to deliver an accessible changing place, public toilet enhancements and access improvements at the Aberavon Seafront Aqua Splash.

Executive Summary

1. Member approval is sought to delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept an offer of funding of £120,000 and to deliver the Aberavon Changing Place project. The project will create an accessible changing place, refurbish the existing public toilet provision and deliver access improvements at the Aberavon Seafront Aqua Splash.
2. The report highlights that the project will create specific provision to support visitors with disabilities at Aberavon Seafront and bring the quality of the Aquasplash public toilet facilities in line with visitor expectations.

Background

3. In early 2020, officers submitted an expression of interest to Visit Wales' (Welsh Government) Brilliant Basics scheme which set out to deliver a changing place, improve public toilet provision and enhance access alongside the delivery of the new Aqua Splash facility on Aberavon Seafront.
4. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the process of assessing Brilliant Basics applications was suspended by Visit Wales as the funds were redirected into Covid-19 financial support for businesses. However, in June 2021 Visit Wales made contact with Officers to note that a small budget had been allocated to Brilliant Basics this financial year (2021/2022) and the project was subsequently invited to proceed to full application stage.
5. In response to the application which was submitted, the Council has recently received an offer of funding from Visit Wales for £120,000 against a total project cost of £160,000 to deliver the above scheme by 31st March 2022.
6. The project will deliver;
 - A new designated, fully accessible changing place for use by disabled visitors which meets the specifications set by www.changing-places.org.
 - Refurbishment of existing male, female and disabled toilets at the Aqua Splash to bring these facilities in line with visitor expectations.
 - Access improvements to pathways leading to the improved public toilet provision/ Aqua Splash facility. The aim of this element of the project is to open up access pathways which are currently narrow and can become congested during busy periods.
7. Subject to member approval, Officers must now work quickly to seek planning permission, procure contractors and deliver the project by the funding deadline of 31st March 2022.
8. It is intended that once the works are complete, the public toilet provision and changing place at this location will not be subject to seasonal opening and will be open to the public all year. This will ensure that Aberavon Seafront remains a destination which is accessible to disabled visitors and their families all year round.

9. Officers are in the process of preparing a proposal for a Phase 2 of this project for delivery once all elements of the project have been completed. Phase 2, which will not be funded through the Brilliant Basics Scheme, will potentially enhance the façade of the existing Aqua Splash public toilet building and enhance the retail space within. As these proposals are developed a separate report will be presented to members for approval.

Project Funding

10. NPTCBC is in receipt of an offer letter from Visit Wales (Welsh Government) of £120,000 via the Brilliant Basics Scheme.
11. NPTCBC match funding against this project amounts to £40,000. This funding is allocated within the Capital Programme.

Financial Impacts

12. The Council has received an offer of funding amounting to £120,000 against the total project cost of £160,000. NPTCBC's match funding of £40,000 is allocated within the Council's Capital Programme.

Integrated Impact Assessment

13. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

Valleys Communities Impacts

14. Although there are no immediate impacts on the Valleys areas, residents of these areas, in particular those who require changing place facilities, will benefit from the proposed investment.

Workforce Impacts

15. None.

Legal Impacts

16. None

Risk Management Impacts

17. None.

Consultation

18. There is no requirement for external consultation on this matter.

Recommendations

19. Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that Members note the purpose of the project and approve delivery by March 2022.

20. That Members delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept the Brilliant Basics grant offer letter.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

21. The proposed recommendations will allow the Council to enhance facilities at Aberavon Seafront to better cater for the needs of disabled visitors and their families all year round.

Implementation of Decision

22. For Immediate Implementation

Appendices

23. Appendix 1 - First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers

N/A

Officer Contact

Simon Brennan – Head of Property and Regeneration

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

<p>Initiative description and summary: Aberavon Seafront Changing Place Project to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new designated, fully accessible changing place which meets the specifications set by www.changing-places.org • Refurbishment of existing male, female and disabled toilet provision at the Aquasplash to bring facilities in line with visitor expectations. • Access improvements to pathways leading to the improved public toilet provision/ Aquasplash facility.
<p>Service Area: Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development</p>
<p>Directorate: Environment</p>

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	X	
Staff		x
Wider community	X	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		X				The proposals will have no impact
Disability	x				H	The proposals will create fully accessible changing place in line with the specifications set by www.changing-places.org . This provision will enhance the facilities on offer at Aberavon Seafront for visitors with disabilities

						<p>which in turn will make spending leisure time on Aberavon Seafront much easier for these groups.</p> <p>At the current time this location is accessible via a narrow access path which can become congested during busy periods, making it difficult for wheelchair and pushchair users to access the aqua splash and the public toilets. The proposed access improvements will create a more seamless method of access to the site.</p> <p>The refurbished toilets and changing place will be open all year whereas the current provision at this location is currently seasonal.</p>
Gender Reassignment		X				The proposals will have no impact
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X				The proposals will have no impact
Pregnancy/Maternity		X				The proposals will have no impact
Race		X				The proposals will have no impact
Religion/Belief		X				The proposals will have no impact
Sex		X				There are no proposed changes to the number of available male/ female toilets, the changing place provision will be unisex.
Sexual orientation		X				The proposals will have no impact

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language			x		L	The proposals will have no impact. All signage will be produced bilingually.

Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			x		L	The proposals will have no impact. All signage will be produced bilingually.
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5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity			x		L	The proposals will have no impact.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			x		L	The proposals will have no impact.

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6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		The proposal enhances access to the seafront for leisure time by visitors with disabilities by providing much needed, and accessible, changing place provision.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The proposals will enhance opportunities to spend leisure time and partake in outdoor activity on Aberavon Seafront, in particular by families which consist of individuals with disabilities.

Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		The project is based on visitor feedback and feedback from local members on the potential to cater more comprehensively for disabled visitors to Aberavon Seafront.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		The Aqua Splash facility (along with the seasonal opening of the public toilets) is currently operated by Celtic Leisure and a lease is granted for the retail space within the public toilet building which contribute extensively to the overall operation of the site. To secure year-round opening for the new provision, NPTCBC will take on the management and cleaning of the public toilet building upon project completion. The specification for the changing place has been developed in consultation with www.changing-places.org criteria.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		The investments will enhance existing facilities and will be managed by NPTCBC all year.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	
The proposals will not have any adverse impact on people with protected characteristics. The overall project has a positive impact on wellbeing objectives.	
A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	

Reasons for this conclusion

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Karleigh Davies	Tourism Manager	16/08/2021
Signed off by	Simon Brennan	Head of Property & Regeneration	16/08/2021

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